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**Selectboard Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair. Curt Robie, and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members, were also present. Sean Curran, Town Administrator and Mark Doane, Town Administrative Assistant were also present.

Town residents present: Adair Laurel-Cafarella, David Fuller, Doreen Black, Maureen Longobardi, Alfonso Longobardi, and Noreen Suriner. Angela Panaccione from PVPC was also present.

The warrants were signed, the mail reviewed, and outstanding minutes of Selectboard meetings were signed.

Angela spoke about the Dirt Road Grant and low impact and green initiatives. She reported that she is hoping for revenue to assist with the repair/reconstruction of Clark Wright Road from the intersection with Chipman Road to River Road. She also spoke of a Bundled Notice of Intent (BNOI) that would allow the Highway Superintendent to supply the Conservation Commission with a listing of projects to be addressed during the year. Angela also reported that the Beaver Study from Fuss & O’Neal is still pending.

Sean reported that:

1. The Town will receive $20,000.00 from the State for storm damage of last summer.
2. Bids for moving of Town Hall Offices, in preparation for the floor replacement, have been posted in the Country Journal, as well as on CommBuys. Any bids received will be open on July 19, 2024. Bids for the floor replacement have also been posted.
3. Grants are available from the Americans with Disability Act. Sean feels we would have a good chance of receiving money from this grant to make changes at the Town Hall. On this subject, it was recommended that a handrail be put on the stairs that go to the stage, as well as looking into getting the elevator for the stage repaired.
4. Eric Weiss and Ira Brezinsky from PVPC will meet with the Selectboard on June 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM to assist the Capital Planning Committee draft a By-law for the Town relative to the Capital Planning Committee. At a minimum, the Capital Planning Committee will consist of a representative from the Selectboard, a representative from the Finance Committee, a representative from the Planning Board, the Highway Superintendent, and a Public Safety individual. Concern was raised about the number of hours the PVPC will be assisting during this phase, but it was stated that the Town can use PVPC services for up to 21 hours for By-law assistance.

Tamarin reported that the Assessors have begun discussions of sending a tax bill to the Church, as the Church is no longer holding services. The Treasurer of the Church, Mark Doane, reported that negotiations are ongoing with the United Church of Christ, concerning funds. Further discussion stated that if the Church held services even once a year, the Church would continue to be exempt from taxes.

Curt reported that the deadline has passed for submitting requests to the state One-Stop Grant. Curt has submitted one with Sen. Ed Markey, and Representative Richard Neal also supplying letters of support for the Grant. This would allow Middlefield to begin structural work on the Senior Center.

Ann Marie gave an update on the Hampshire Regional Public Health services the Town will begin utilizing as of July 1, 2024. It was hoped that Ed Fahey would be able to contract with Hampshire Regional to continue to be our Board of Health agent, however, it was reported that Berkshire Planning Commission won’t allow Ed to contract. Ann did report that Permit Eyes would continue to be used by the Building Inspector, William Girard. Ann also reported that Michael Schaffer from Huntley Associates will be finishing up the survey at the Transfer Station within the next few days. Michael will also be supplying the Town with the final permit on the Skyline Trail Dump Capping project.

The new accounting system, VADAR, is to begin to match UMAS to our current accounts, and then the Town will need to supply corrections to VADAR as necessary. The Town Accountant is to receive training from VADAR prior to the start date of July 1, 2024.

John Les, IT consultant, is to train Town Hall staff on the use of the OWL system and will also be acquiring an up-to-date laptop for use with the OWL.

Appointments for vacancies are ongoing. Vacancies will be posted on the Town Website for public information.

Under old business, a discussion was held on expanding the Senior Work Off program to include Veterans. The Senior Work Off was approved at the Annual Town Meeting of 2016. A amendment to that article would be necessary to include Veterans.

It was recommended not to sign the Hinsdale Ambulance contract until it is amended to include what happens if the Hinsdale Ambulance isn’t available. Also, $1,000.00 will be requested from the reserve fund, for FY 2025, to pay the increase for the use of the Hinsdale Ambulance service.

Under new business, it was reported that a Playground Committee will be formed, and will meet at the Senior Center on June 20, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The Committee currently consists of Judith Hoag, Ann Marie Visconti, Caroline Pin, Susan Schneller, and Jennifer and Dan Meadows.

After all discussions, and no further business to come before the Selectboard, the meeting was declared closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane,

Middlefield Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Curt Robie, Member:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_